DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 438 523 CS 013 888

TITLE	Texas Reading Initiative: A Governor George W. Bush Public Education Challenge.
INSTITUTION	Texas Education Agency, Austin.
PUB DATE	1996-00-00
NOTE	14p.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Financial Support; Primary Education; Private Sector; *Reading Achievement; Reading Improvement; *Reading Programs; Reading Skills; State Programs
IDENTIFIERS	State Initiatives; Texas

ABSTRACT

This pamphlet describes 8 key elements established to guide the Texas Reading Initiative, whose goal is that all students will read on grade level or above by the end of grade 3. The elements discussed in the pamphlet are: (1) increase awareness of students' reading skill levels in kindergarten through grade 3; (2) promote reading programs as priority recipients of Academics 2000 funding; (3) ask the legislature to fund statewide intensive reading programs; (4) showcase model reading programs; (5) encourage the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board to support the goal; (6) encourage the State Board for Educator Certification to support the goal; (7) motivate school districts to make pro-reading program decisions; and (8) stimulate private sector initiatives. (RS)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 438 523

The Texas Reading Initiative: A Governor George W. Bush Public Education Challenge.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

CS013 888

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

L. Kemp

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

1

READING INITIATIVE

The Texas Reading Initiative

A Governor George W. Bush Public Education Challenge

The Goal of the Reading Initiative:

ALL STUDENTS WILL READ ON GRADE LEVEL OR ABOVE BY THE END OF GRADE 3 AND CONTINUE TO READ ON GRADE LEVEL OR ABOVE THROUGHOUT THEIR SCHOOLING.

Toll-Free Texas Education Agency
Reading Hotline 1-800-819-5713

1996

Introduction

In January, 1996, Governor George W. Bush announced he would rally parents, businesses, and communities and direct state resources toward helping local school districts achieve, "the clearest and most profound goal I have for Texas: every child - Each and Every Child - must learn to read."

"Reading is to the mind what food is to the body. Nothing is more basic or more essential. And - in this administration - nothing is going to take a higher priority," said Governor Bush.

The Governor has challenged school districts to consider new ways to structure their class days to emphasize reading and use the flexibility of the new education code to set up programs such as skills centers, mini-schools, extended-day reading classes or one-on-one tutoring.

In order to achieve the goal set forth by the Governor eight key elements to guide the initiative were identified. Under the leadership of Commissioner Mike Moses the Texas Education Agency has responded to the Governor's Challenge by targeting state and federal funds to programs that teach reading and other basic skills from kindergarten through fourth grade; by improving opportunities for teacher training through the establishment of a center designed to provide teachers with the skills needed to do a better job of teaching reading; by developing a diagnostic reading measurement tool to help local districts identify early reading problems; and by identifying model school programs and effective reading instruction.

To best serve the needs of Texas public school children parents, teachers, administrators, business leaders and community members all need to be involved and do their part to improve the reading skills of our children.

Key Elements Established to Guide the Reading Initiative

- Increase awareness of students' reading skills levels in Kindergarten through Grade 3.
- Promote reading programs as priority recipients of Academics 2000 funding.
- Ask the legislature to fund statewide intensive reading programs.
- Showcase model reading programs.
- Encourage the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board to support the goal.
- Encourage the State Board for Educator Certification to support the goal.
- Motivate school districts to make pro-reading program decisions.
- Stimulate private sector initiatives.

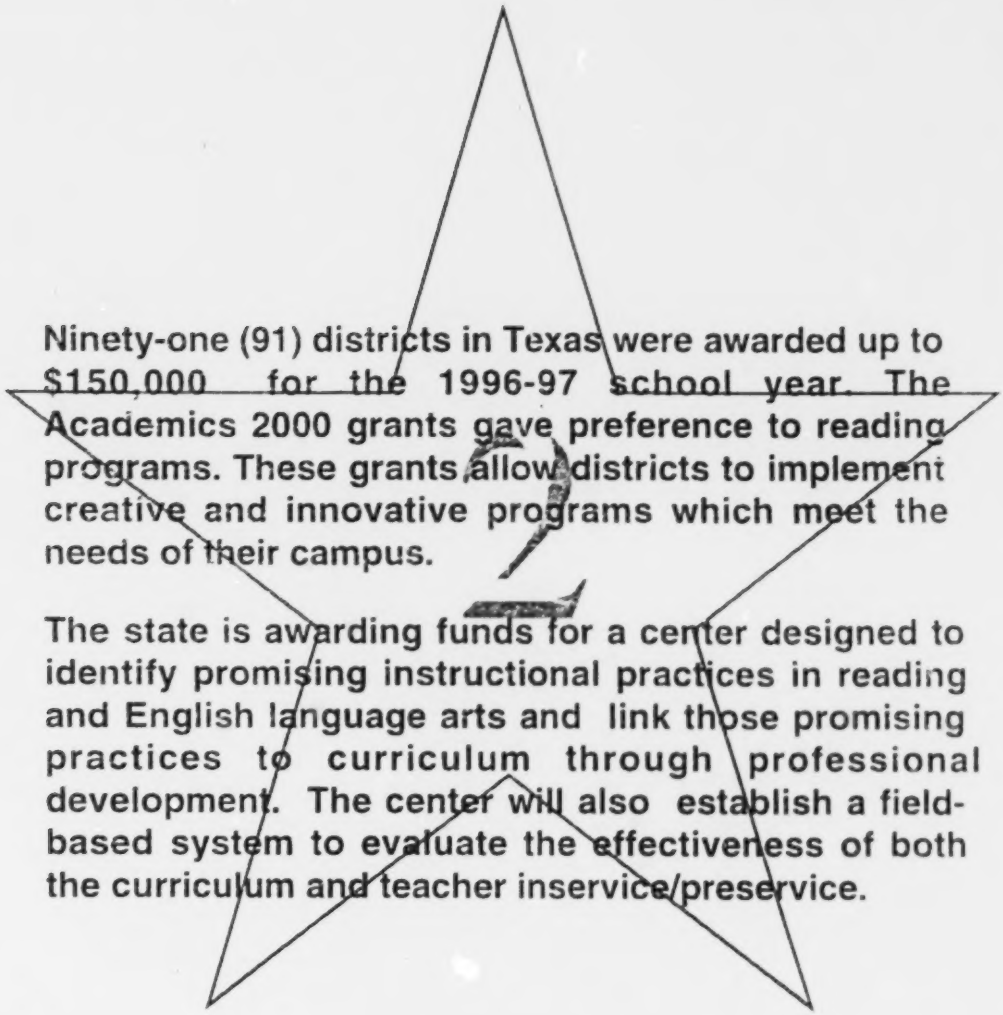
Increase awareness of students' reading skills levels in Kindergarten through Grade Three.

Promote the ongoing measurement of students' reading skills in kindergarten through grade three by making available to school districts diagnostic tools that currently exist and newly-designed reading skills inventories which will be available through the Texas Education Agency for the 1996-97 school year.

The Texas Primary Reading Inventory is available to school districts. The inventory is designed to assist teachers in determining the reading abilities of students in kindergarten through grade 2.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Promote reading programs as priority recipients for Academics 2000 funding.

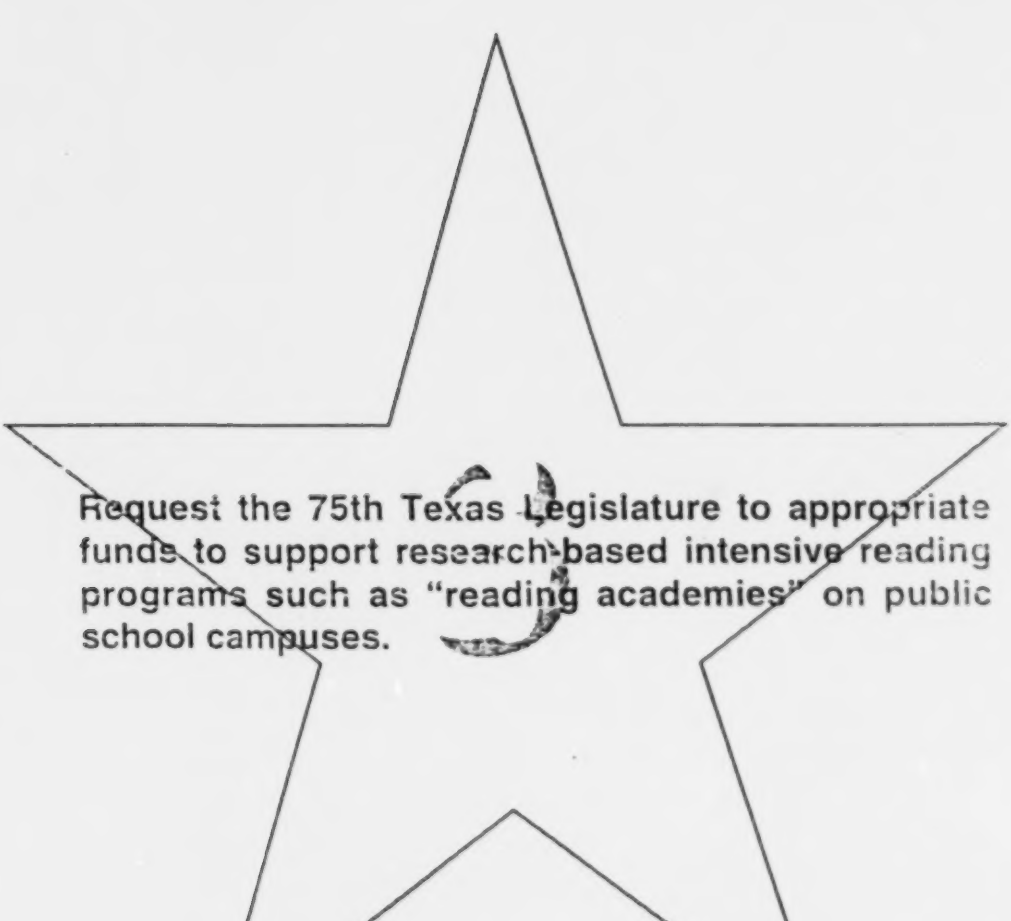


Ninety-one (91) districts in Texas were awarded up to $150,000 for the 1996-97 school year. The Academics 2000 grants gave preference to reading programs. These grants allow districts to implement creative and innovative programs which meet the needs of their campus.

The state is awarding funds for a center designed to identify promising instructional practices in reading and English language arts and link those promising practices to curriculum through professional development. The center will also establish a field-based system to evaluate the effectiveness of both the curriculum and teacher inservice/preservice.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

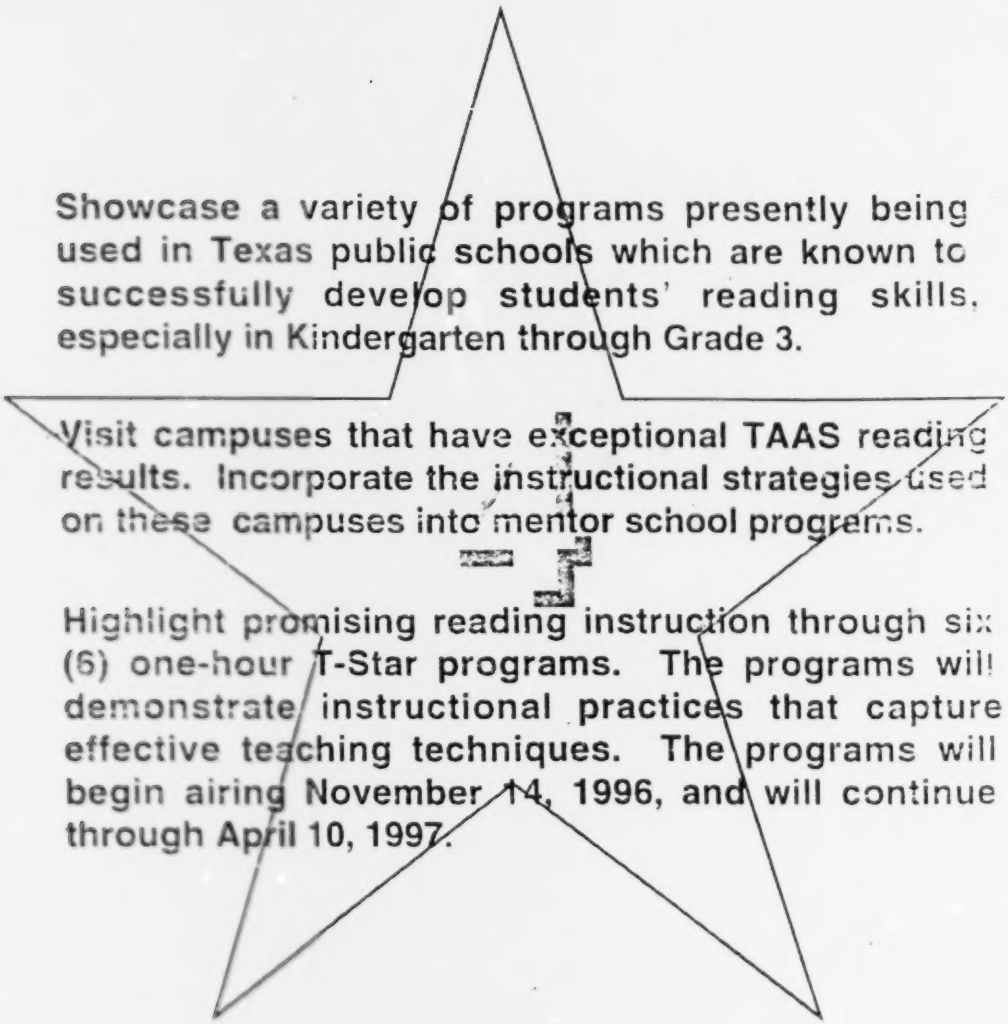
Ask the legislature to fund statewide intensive reading programs.



Request the 75th Texas Legislature to appropriate funds to support research-based intensive reading programs such as "reading academies" on public school campuses.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Showcase model reading programs.



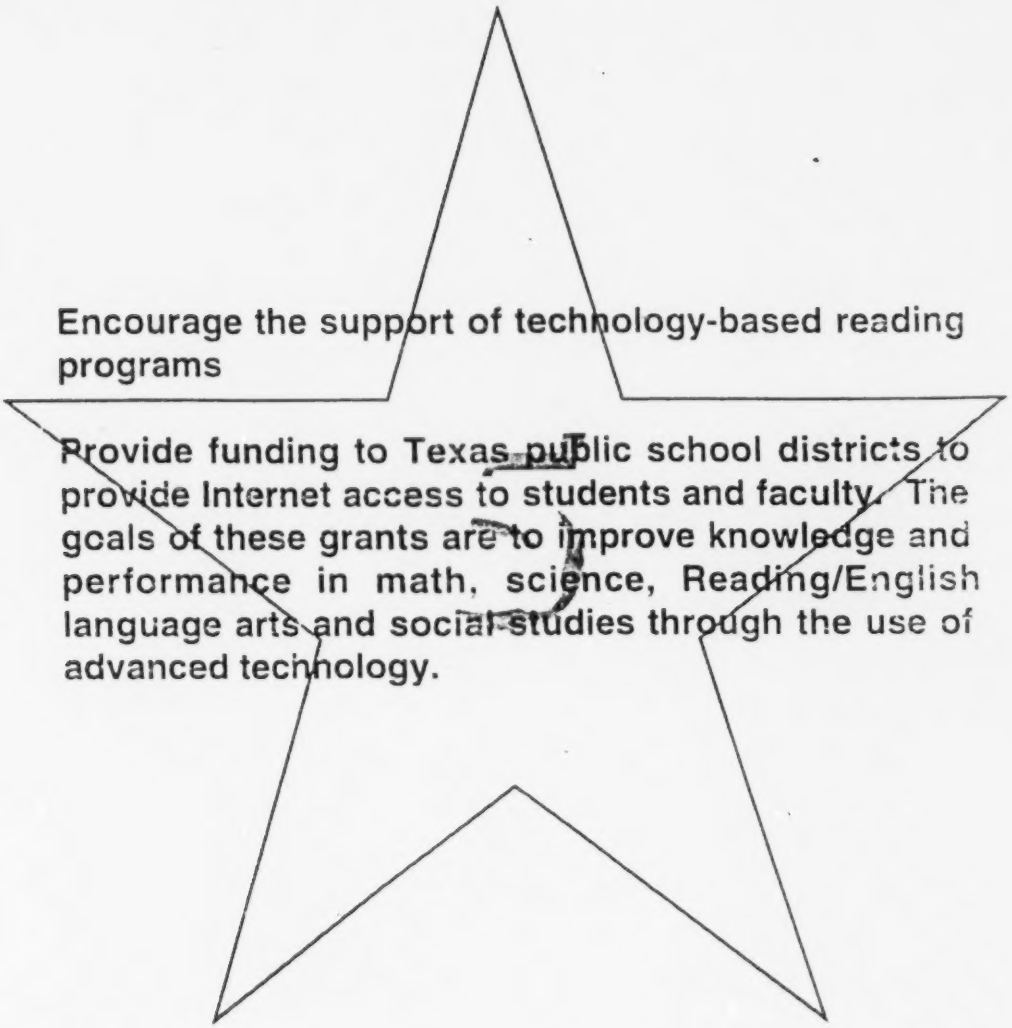
Showcase a variety of programs presently being used in Texas public schools which are known to successfully develop students' reading skills, especially in Kindergarten through Grade 3.

Visit campuses that have exceptional TAAS reading results. Incorporate the instructional strategies used on these campuses into mentor school programs.

Highlight promising reading instruction through six (6) one-hour T-Star programs. The programs will demonstrate instructional practices that capture effective teaching techniques. The programs will begin airing November 14, 1996, and will continue through April 10, 1997.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Encourage the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board to support the goal.

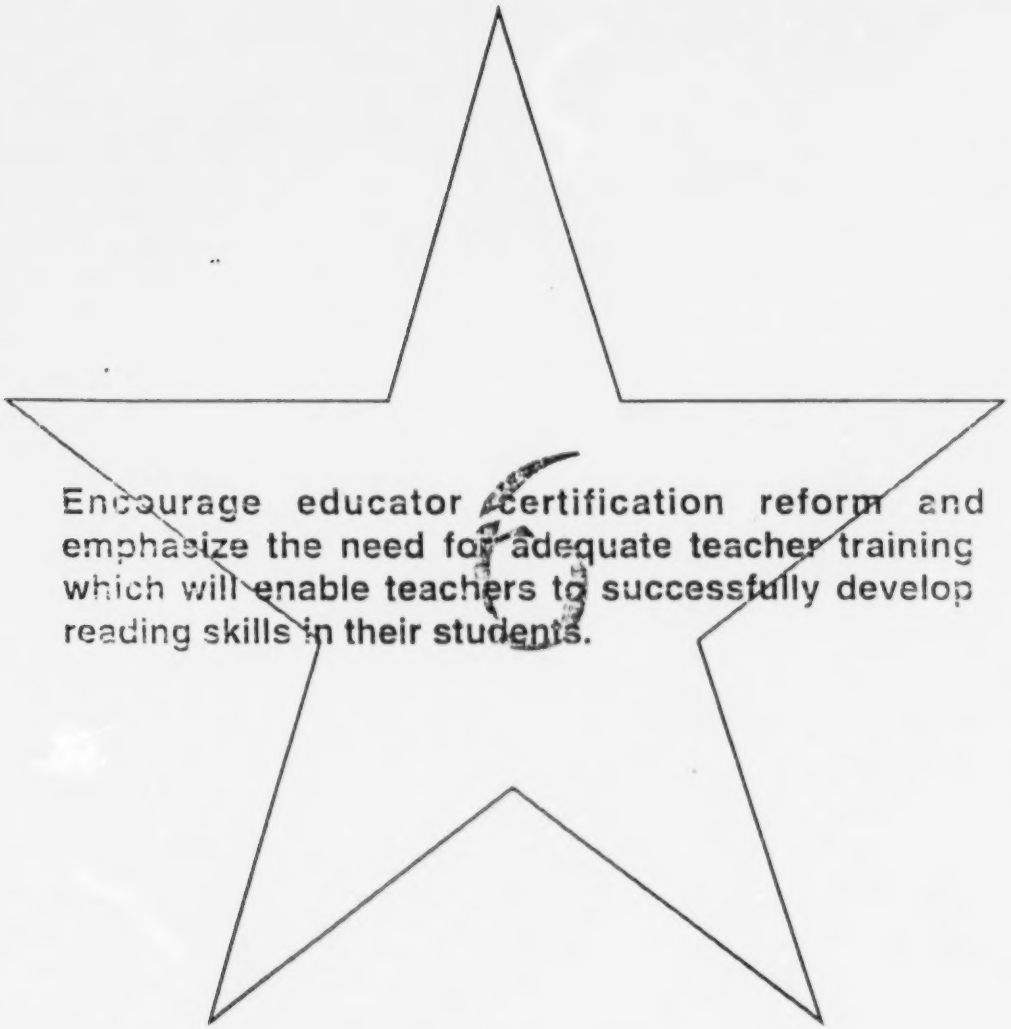


Encourage the support of technology-based reading programs

Provide funding to Texas public school districts to provide Internet access to students and faculty. The goals of these grants are to improve knowledge and performance in math, science, Reading/English language arts and social studies through the use of advanced technology.

EST COPY AVAILABLE

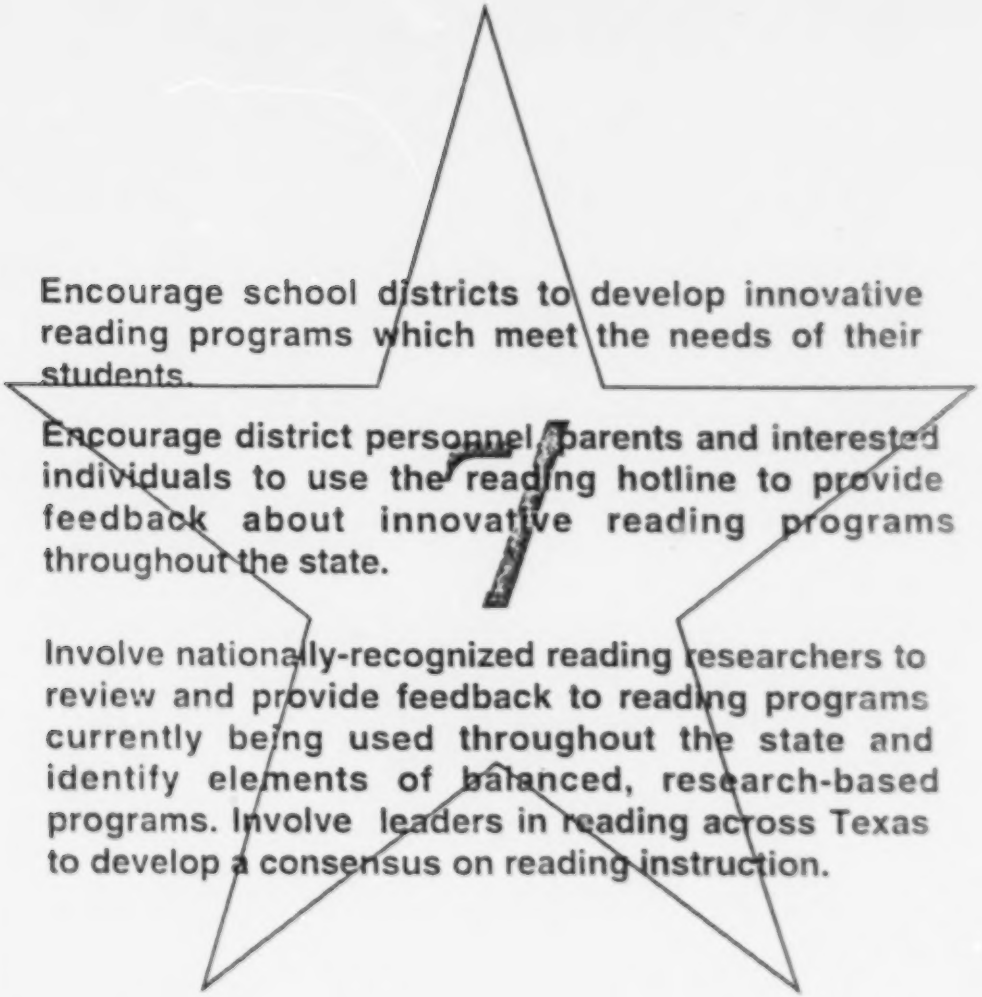
Encourage the State Board for Educator Certification to support the goal.



Encourage educator certification reform and emphasize the need for adequate teacher training which will enable teachers to successfully develop reading skills in their students.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Motivate school districts to make pro-reading program decisions.



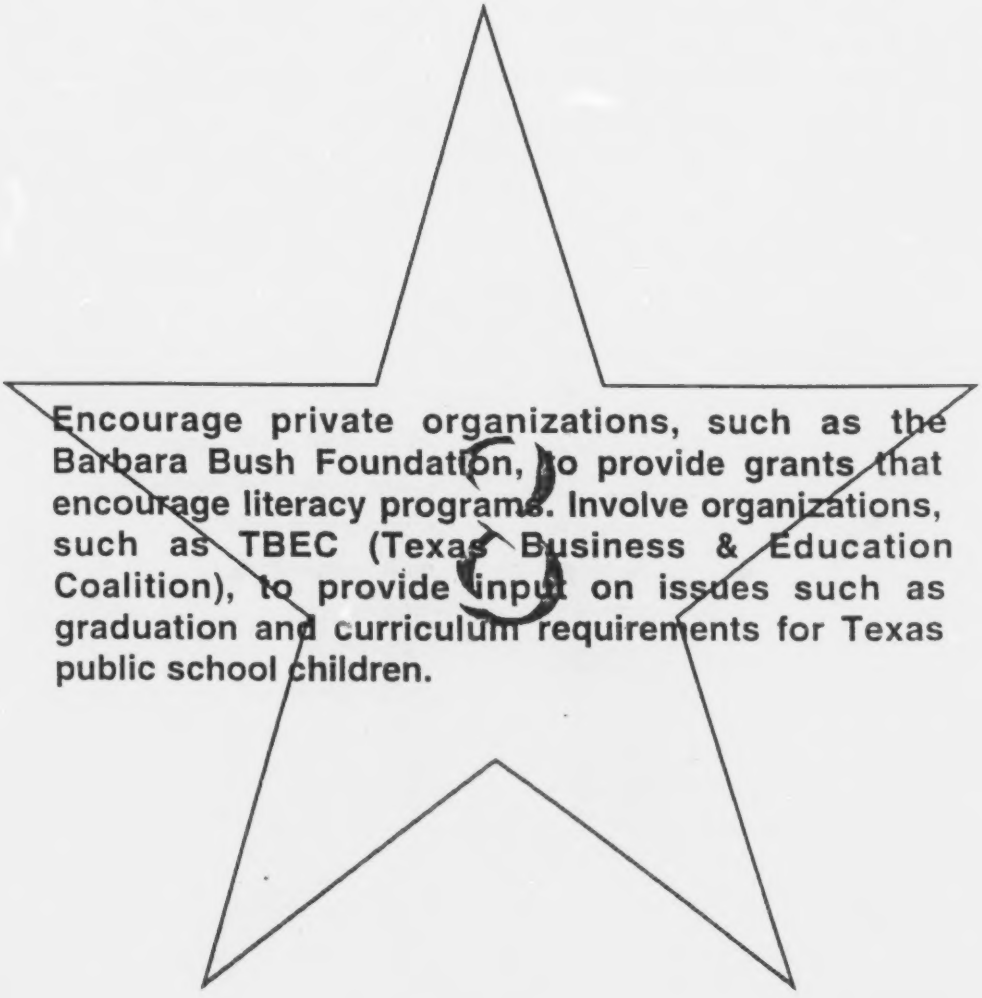
Encourage school districts to develop innovative reading programs which meet the needs of their students.

Encourage district personnel, parents and interested individuals to use the reading hotline to provide feedback about innovative reading programs throughout the state.

Involve nationally-recognized reading researchers to review and provide feedback to reading programs currently being used throughout the state and identify elements of balanced, research-based programs. Involve leaders in reading across Texas to develop a consensus on reading instruction.

EST COPY AVAILABL

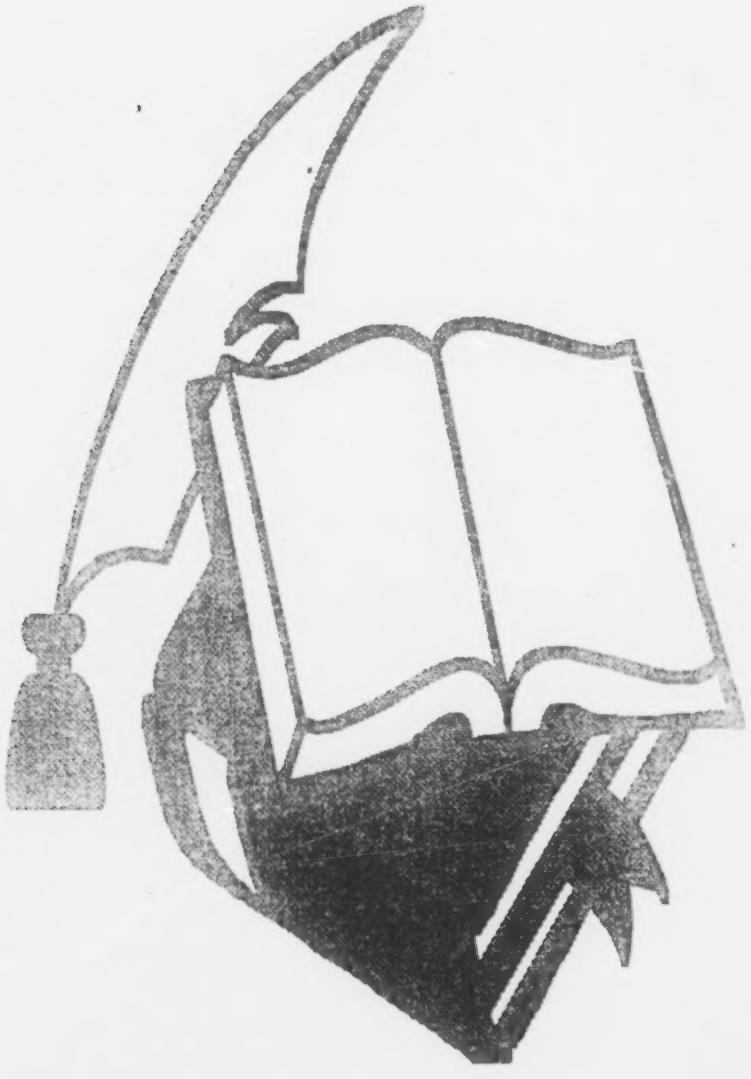
Stimulate private sector initiatives.



Encourage private organizations, such as the Barbara Bush Foundation, to provide grants that encourage literacy programs. Involve organizations, such as TBEC (Texas Business & Education Coalition), to provide input on issues such as graduation and curriculum requirements for Texas public school children.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

For More Information about the Texas Reading Initiative call (800) 819-5713.



ST COPY AVAIL